

Leelanau County

2014–2015 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

MSU Extension has been partnering with counties across the state of Michigan for over 100 years. Last year our organization enjoyed celebrating this milestone with our county stakeholders and other key partners commemorating the centennial anniversary of the signing of the Smith Lever Act. Looking back over the past 100 years, our commitment to residents and counties continues to remain the same. We will continue to work within Leelanau County addressing critical needs each and every day with individuals, families and communities.



This annual report features the programs offered to Leelanau County residents. It highlights our foundational programs like agriculture and 4-H as well as expanding programs like fostering strong communities and health and nutrition education. I think you will be very pleased with the excellent programs provided to residents of Leelanau County.

Please let me know if you need additional information on any of the topics covered in this brief overview of our work in 2014. As always, thank you for your continued support of the partnership between MSU Extension and Leelanau County.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Berkey, Interim District 3 Coordinator

CONTACT US

8527 E. Government Center Drive #107
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Phone: 231-256-9888

msue.leelanau@county.msu.edu

www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau

STAFF HOUSED IN LEELANAU COUNTY

J. Robert Sirrine, Ph.D.

Community Food Systems Educator

Barbara Duvall

4-H Youth Development Educator

Susan Lee

4-H Program Coordinator

Brigid Hart

4-H Assistant

Elise Carolan

Horticulture Program Instructor

Annette Kleinschmit

Office Manager

MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

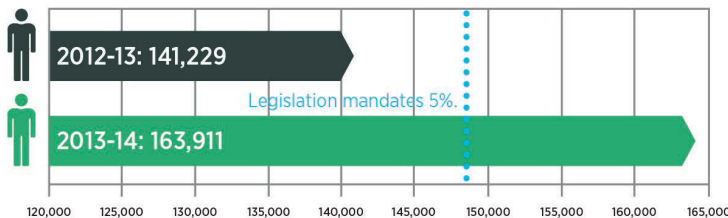
4-H: Developing Youth & Communities	742
Keeping People Healthy & Ensuring Safe Food	480
Supporting Food & Agriculture	571
Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses while Enhancing Our Natural Assets	121
Protecting People from Unintentional Injuries	904

2014 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN LEELANAU COUNTY: 2,818

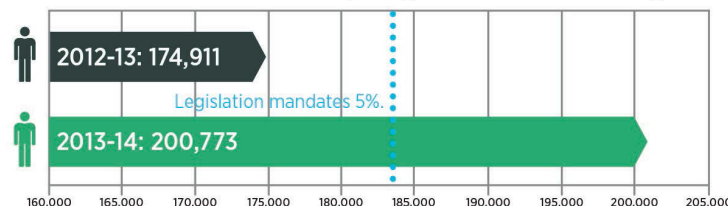
MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

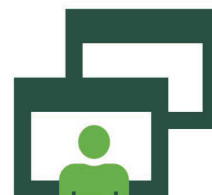
15% Growth in Adults Participating in MSU Extension Programs



16% Growth in Youth Participating in MSU Extension Programs



MSU Extension's Expanded Digital Reach



2 million visitors viewed more than 4 million pages



560,000 topic newsletters distributed to more than 8,500 email addresses



Nearly 2,000 Facebook and more than 1,700 Twitter followers

DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

Research Shows 4-H Helps Young People Excel Beyond Their Peers

The structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring that young people receive through their participation in 4-H plays a vital role in helping them achieve success in life. The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development is a longitudinal study that surveyed more than 7,000 adolescents from diverse backgrounds across 42 U.S. states. For more than a decade, preeminent youth development scholars and the team at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, Medford, MA, partnered with faculty at America's land-grant colleges and universities to conduct this groundbreaking research.

Highly regarded as the first-ever research project of its kind, the study defined and measured positive youth development. Compared to their peers, the research shows that youth involved in 4-H programs excel in several areas. 4-H'ers are approximately:

- Four times more likely to make **contributions to their communities** (Grades 7-12);
- Two times more likely to be **civically active** (Grades 8-12);
- Two times more likely to make **healthier choices** (Grade 7);
- Two times more likely to participate in **Science, Engineering and Computer Technology Programs** during out-of-school time (Grades 10-12); and
- 4-H girls are two times more likely (Grade 10) and nearly three times more likely (Grade 12) to take part in **science programs** compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

The youth of Leelanau County benefit from the vibrant 4-H program offered here. Leelanau County's 4-H program provides many types of learning experiences that teach life skills such as confidence, leadership, and responsibility. 4-H youth develop relationships with caring adult volunteers who provide a safe environment in which to participate in "hands on" learning experiences. 4-H volunteers and parents work together to provide youth with programming that focuses on community service, excellence in education, fairness in competitive activities and the development of skills and abilities that will last a lifetime.

This year Leelanau County youth were involved in 4-H learning experiences in a wide variety of ways. We offer everything from traditional clubs, after-school clubs, short-term clubs, school enrichment, educational events, workshops, and camps. The winter 4-H Learn to Ski/Snowboard program had youth swooshing down the fluffy white ski hills of

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn leadership and decision-making skills that increase their likelihood of becoming civically active.



4h.msue.msu.edu



4-H Ski & Snowboard Program

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

The Homestead. Other youth learned safety through our Tractor Safety and Snowmobile Safety programs. Five new clubs were formed, focusing on project areas including gardening, outdoor exploration, forestry, communication, and outdoor recreation. A large number of our youth worked with animal science education studying horse, steer, goat, llama, alpaca, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, and/or dogs. Youth had the opportunity to attend workshops, retreats, and overnight events, such as 4-H Capitol Experience, 4-H Citizen Washington Focus, 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp, and 4-H Exploration Days.

Leelanau County 4-H Youth Are Recognized For Their Accomplishments: 4-H youth throughout the county continue to draw attention to their achievements and have been recognized with awards, scholarships, and grants. This year, 2 Leelanau County 4-H'ers were chosen to receive \$2,000 scholarships to attend MSU after high school, based on their written responses to questions about their community involvement, academic ability and long-term goals. Eighteen Leelanau teens have been selected to receive this award over the last 7 years. Also receiving recognition this year was a 4-H State Award delegate from Leelanau County, Heather Swinney. Heather, a member of Leelanau Livestock Lovers and President of the Leelanau County 4-H Youth Association, was nominated and selected as a delegate for a 4-H State Award in the area of Leadership and Personal Development. The 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth. Youth compete in one of 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills and experiences. After winning the county and regional award, our county representative then moved on to the interview portion of the program and participated in the awards ceremony at MSU.

Community Service is at the Heart of 4-H: Through its pledge of "hands to larger service," 4-H has historically given back to the community by encouraging members to volunteer. Leelanau County 4-H'ers participate in many community service projects each year. Leland 4-H Adventure Club is just one of many clubs who committed to serving our community. They spent the afternoon of a half-day of school providing community service at Tendercare Health Center Leelanau in Suttons Bay. They cleaned up and prepared the garden atriums for spring, weeding, mulching, and beautifying the property for the residents. They had a wonderful time, as did the residents of Tendercare, who enjoyed watching the youth working. After several hours of gardening, the 4-H'ers enjoyed some much-deserved snacks and time with the residents to draw, play games, and share stories. It was truly an enriching experience for all!

Partnerships with Local Organizations and Events: This past year, Leelanau County 4-H was actively involved in numerous events which helped local youth and adults learn more about 4-H. Our youth and adults were busy participating in events such as

Members of the Leland 4-H Adventure Club beautifying garden beds at Tendercare Health Center



Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Leelanau County Public Safety Day, Leelanau County Senior Expo, the Leland 4th of July Parade, Summer Reading Programs, the Cherry Festival Parade, Cherry Connection, Horse Shows by the Bay, and Chickens at the Opera House. 4-H curriculum materials and information were shared with teachers and students in Leelanau County schools, and countless 4-H events, workshops, and activities held this year were promoted by the schools and were well attended by our county. Additionally, Leelanau County 4-H partnered with the Leelanau Conservation District and the Leelanau Conservancy to develop a forestry management plan for our 4-H Johnson Preserve, creating a wonderful opportunity for our youth.

4-H'ers Enjoy Outdoor Education: Leelanau County 4-H'ers and volunteers have been busy exploring, learning, and playing at the 4-H Johnson Preserve. Several events were held at the property this year to increase awareness of the 4-H property, to recruit youth to work with a consulting forester to write the forestry management plan, and to learn more about our natural resources. During Winter Fun Day, held in February, participants enjoyed snowshoeing and cross country skiing out to the property. Then, they were led on hiking tours, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, and even built a quiznee hut. In March, we held a maple syrup event at the property for 4-H'ers to learn about making maple syrup and to hike the property. The 4-H Outdoor Club has held several meetings at the 4-H property, working alongside the consulting forester. The youth have been busy inventorying the forest, mapping, determining where to plant trees and shrubs, how to improve habitat for wildlife, and much more. We are fortunate to have so many people involved in the stewardship of this property.



4-H Builds Leaders: After spending 8 weeks together as members of the United Youth Leadership 4-H Program, 9 high school students are on track to make great leaders. This 4-H program provided the opportunity for youth to understand the role and purpose of local, tribal and state government through experiential and active learning. They toured tribal and county government facilities, attended Tribal Council and Board of Commissioner meetings and much more. Participants also spent four days in Lansing attending Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience. There, they attended a legislative breakfast,



Leelanau 4-H'ers at the Cherry Festival Parade.

4-H Outdoor Adventure Club members at Winter Fun Day, Maple Syrup Day, and testing a well at the 4-H Johnson Preserve.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued



United Youth Leadership 4-H participants at the State Capitol.

participated in issue groups, visited with state agencies, lobbyists, and worked on mock legislation at the state capitol. After participating in this program youth found government to be interesting and learned much from the experience. One Leelanau County youth participant of the program was so motivated to continue learning about government, that he also took part in this summer's 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus program in Washington DC. While there, he had the opportunity to visit historical sites, meet senators and representatives, as well as develop his skills in areas such as leadership, responsibility and civic engagement.



Cultures Connect Through 4-H International Exchange: Youth who participate in the 4-H International Exchange program travel to the US to live life as part of an American family. This year Leelanau County was host to one summer student from Japan and one year-long Japanese student. Youth and hosts feel that the experience offers them a bigger world perspective, a cultural education and a “forever” family member!

Much fun was had by all at this year's Exploration Days: 77 youth and adult leaders from Leelanau County adventured their way through countless amazing activities and sessions during the three-day event on MSU's campus in June. From crafts to biology, sports to science, classes were offered that suited the interests of everybody. And, during free time, Leelanau County youth and adults were treated to behind-the-scenes tours, entertainment, recreational activities, and much more. As one youth noted, “I would definitely recommend Exploration Days to a friend. There is a session to fit everyone's interests and time left over to explore the campus. Other activities are also set up for participants to enjoy in their free time such as swimming or ice-skating.” It is obvious from the comments of the Exploration Days participants just how valuable this event is. The youth are provided the opportunity to sample college life, a potentially life-changing experience.



2014 was a record year in 4-H market animal sales, bringing in approximately \$700,000.

Much 4-H Success at the Fair: Record sales, 2 auction rings and a new llama and goat barn were some of the highlights from this year's 4-H program at the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This was a record year in 4-H market animal sales, bringing in approximately \$700,000, about \$100,000 more in sales than 2013. Our 4-H llama and goat project members enjoyed new barns to house their animals. There were over 250 swine in 2014, and we have seen an increase in youth participating in 4-H animal projects throughout the 3 counties that participate in the fair. Youth in our 4-H animal science programs learn life skills like responsibility, self-discipline, decision making and marketing skills while raising an animal for the fair.



Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Abundant Educational Opportunities Through 4-H: One of the many educational opportunities for 4-H'ers this year was the Explore 4-H Educational Expo. More than 150 4-H youth, leaders and families from our area and around the state attended this expo held at the NW Michigan Fairgrounds. 4-H Explore was an opportunity for 4-H'ers and their families to learn from a wide range of speakers on nutrition, fitting and showing of livestock animals. Traverse City State Bank offered classes on marketing, Ebels Meats led classes on processing, and MSU Extension staff led classes in parliamentary procedure, zoonotics, youth/adult partnerships and storyboard/website development. It was a great weekend of 4-H experiential learning for everyone involved!

Teens Role-Play Making Adult Financial Decisions: Fourteen juniors and seniors from St. Mary School in Lake Leelanau participated in a financial simulation where they had to make purchasing decisions to live for a month. Each participant chose a career which gave them a predetermined salary; they also had a spouse and a child to factor into their living expenses. Ten community members and teachers served as vendors offering the “adults” housing, transportation, groceries, clothing and personal care, entertainment and child care. Participants also had the option to put money into savings, make a charitable donation, pay down debt and get budget counseling. To make the “Mad City Money” simulation even more like real life, each participant was presented with two “fate cards”, a windfall and an unexpected expense like a flat tire; both had to be figured into their budget. One student commented, “It gave me a real perspective on how expensive items can be and how important it is to budget throughout the month. You have the cash when you get paid, but you have to save for the bills that come later in the month.”

Adults Train to Teach Youth to Prepare for Future: A new national career curriculum was unveiled at a training in Gaylord in April; two Leelanau County 4-H volunteers attended the day-long seminar. The nine lessons in *Build Your Future- Choices, Connections, Careers* use fun, interactive experiences to help youth develop the skills to prepare for their future. During the training, participants experienced an activity from each of the lessons such as creating a resume, developing a portfolio, analyzing case studies and building a business plan. The two local 4-H volunteers intend to use the curriculum in their 4-H club as well as in their summer childcare programming efforts.



Build Your Future- Choices, Connections, Careers was authored by a team of MSU Extension educators including Barbara Duvall of Leelanau County. The curriculum includes a facilitator's guide and a youth career journal; it is available at the National 4-H Mall at www.4-H.org.



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn safe food handling practices, increase their physical activity and improve the quality of their diets. Extension programming also helps decrease incidents of violence and bullying. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed)** provides nutrition education to income-eligible adults and children. This program focuses on improving dietary quality and increasing physical activity while stretching food dollars. The ultimate goal of these programs is to promote healthy weight maintenance and obesity prevention. During the past year in Leelanau County, 133 adults and youth were reached through nutrition education classes at various venues in the county.

One of the many classes MSU Extension staff teach each year is through a partnership called **Project FRESH**. In collaboration with the Leelanau County Health Department, MSU Extension nutrition staff provide nutrition education to families involved in the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) on the benefits of including more fruits and vegetables in their diet. Coupons were provided to these participants to purchase locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables from Leelanau County farmer's markets through Project FRESH. These coupons were redeemed at the farm market for \$880 in funds for produce grown by local farmers.

This summer, MSU Extension hosted a College of Agriculture and Natural Resources intern who provided nutrition education at Leelanau County farm markets. Nikki Erickson, MSU Dietetics student, linked 323 farm market patrons to Michigan FRESH resources by sharing best practices on selecting, storing and preserving seasonal fruits and vegetables. She also provided a food sample along with a recipe on how to use the featured produce. Residents reported increased understanding of local produce as well as how to prepare and preserve the fruits and vegetables.

Nutrition education classes make a difference in lives of adults and youth in Leelanau County! Here are a few impacts achieved through the MSU Extension nutrition classes:

Impacts with Adults:

- » 83% showed improvement in one or more nutrition practice like planning meals, making healthy food choices or reading food labels.



323 Leelanau County farm market patrons learned tips on selecting, storing and preserving fresh local produce.

[Michigan FRESH website](#)

Keeping People Healthy, continued

- » 74% showed improvement in one or more food resource management practice like planning meals, comparing prices or using grocery lists.
- » 95% of participants in Project FRESH will eat more fresh fruits & vegetables per day.
- » 92% of participants in Project FRESH learned new ways to incorporate more fruit and vegetables into their meals and snacks.

Impacts with Youth:

- » 94% of the teachers reported that the children increased in their awareness of the importance of good nutrition.
- » 69% reported that the children were making healthier meal and snack choices.
- » 84% reported that the children were willing to try new foods.
- » 73% reported that the children were eating more fruits.
- » 67% reported that the children were eating more vegetables.

“Since MSUE has been coming into my classroom I have lost 60 pounds. I am eating more whole foods. I include a variety of fruits and vegetables at meal and snack times. I eat breakfast every day now. I also try to exercise at least 5 days a week. It keeps me motivated to hear the positive food messages shared. It is fun to sample new foods and encourage my students to do the same.”

- Participating teacher at the Grand Traverse Band Benodjenh Center Head Start

Teaching residents about food safety

Supporting MSU Extension food safety education programs helps prevent food borne illnesses and ensures a safer food supply for consumers – whether that is at food retailers, restaurants, farmers’ markets or community meals served by organizations. MSU Extension food safety education programs train participants to prevent incidents of foodborne illness associated with unsafe food handling practices, which results in fewer medical expenses, fewer food recalls, and less temporary or permanent closures of food businesses by local health departments. Costs of illness, recalls, and food business closures are more expensive from a public health perspective than taking an inexpensive class to learn how to prepare food safely and preserve food correctly. Residents in Leelanau County participated in a variety of food safety classes. Leelanau County residents indicated that as a result of attending food presentation workshops:

- » 96% will follow research based/tested recipes when canning food at home.
- » 97% will properly use processing techniques to safely can low and high acid foods.
- » 98% will use correct processing times to safely can low and high acid foods.

“One of the Benodjenh Center teachers shared that the children know most of the food groups now. The children ask for a variety of foods from the different groups. The children tell her they like to ‘eat a rainbow’.”

~ Jane Rapin,
Nutrition Program
Instructor

[Jennifer Berkey's
MSUE News Articles](#)



As a result of MSU Extension food safety programs, individuals now use safer food handling, preparation, storage and preservation techniques.



Keeping People Healthy, continued

Working to improve social and emotional health

MSU Extension addresses violence and bullying prevention through its focus on social and emotional health, with the overarching goal of helping young people and adults learn to foster safe, affirming and inclusive relationships and settings that are free from violence, abuse, bullying and harassment. This benefits communities through decreased mental, emotional, social and economic costs associated with violence in communities. During 2014, MSU Extension's social and emotional health educational programs reached a total of 3,756 participants statewide.

MSU Extension played a vital role, in conjunction with the Anti-Bullying Taskforce, in planning, recruiting/promoting, and collecting registration for the **3rd Annual Antibullying Conference** held October 17, 2014 at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City. Over 200 adults and 200 students from 20 schools across the Traverse Bay Area ISD and Manistee ISD regions participated in the conference, including Leland and Glen Lake Middle School. This year's featured presenters came from the *Not in Our Town/Not in Our School* movement. Partners in the Anti-Bullying Taskforce include Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Northwestern Michigan College, Disability Network of Northern Michigan, TBA ISD, Michigan State Police Troopers Association, Women's Resource Center, Third Level and TCAPS.

Be SAFE: Safe, Affirming and Fair Environments is an MSU Extension initiative designed to offer a variety of educational resources to help communities reduce and prevent bullying behaviors while promoting healthy social and emotional learning and development. The Be SAFE curriculum includes more than 30 engaging and experiential activities designed for adults to use with adolescents ages 11 to 14 in middle schools and in a variety of out-of-school group settings. MSU Extension provides workshops about how to use the curriculum, as well as evaluation support for groups interested in identifying the impacts of using the curriculum within their settings.

Be SAFE participants this year indicated that they developed new ways to take care of themselves as a result of what they had learned, as well as new ways to provide support for those who are being bullied. Several also indicated that they had seen positive changes in their group as a result of their involvement with Be SAFE.

"I feel that the Be SAFE curriculum has opened the lines of communications. Students now know more than ever that the adults are here for them! They feel more comfortable. Be SAFE has affected bullying issues in our group by bringing more awareness to the issue. It has opened our students' minds to different ways they can help. Overall, we are very pleased with the Be SAFE curriculum and look forward to seeing what next year's club does with it!"

- Adult working with Be SAFE group

Keeping People Healthy, continued

Preventing and managing chronic disease

Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health issues. Compared to the national average, Michigan adults suffer from more risk factors (obesity, hypertension, and high cholesterol) that contribute to chronic disease. In 2010, the estimated cost of diabetes in MI was \$7.2 billion. This figure is expected to triple over the next 25 years. Michigan can save an estimated \$545 million spent across all chronic diseases by investing \$10 in preventive care per person per year.

MSU Extension's **Disease Prevention and Management (DPM)** programs work to promote health and wellness by reducing and managing the incidence and impacts of chronic diseases among Michigan residents and communities. These community-based sessions provide participants with proven strategies for improved dietary quality, management of chronic health conditions and prevention of chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes. Through participation in MSU Extension's multisession disease prevention and management programs, participants have shown increased consumption of healthier food choices, increased physical activity, improved self-rated health scores, reduced chronic disease symptoms and increased confidence in management of chronic health conditions. In 2014, these programs reached more than 6,000 adults throughout Michigan.

According to the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, obesity and diabetes management/prevention were identified as a top priority among stakeholders in the five county northwestern Michigan region. In addition, findings from a regional study investigating community food security, type 2 diabetes was the most common health issue cited by residents who rely on food pantries to help meet their food needs.

MSU Extension DPM works in partnership with community organizations to address health needs and educational program delivery. **The Food, Farms, and Health Conference** serves as one example of this partnership in practice. This action-oriented conference was organized in partnership with MSUE DPM, Munson Healthcare, Hagerty Insurance, and the Michigan Land Use Institute, and took place in Kirkbride Hall at the Grand Traverse Commons. Over 120 food, farm and health leaders from the NW MI region and state converged to learn, connect and take action on integrating regional food with health care and wellness.



Sarah Eichberger's
MSUE News Articles



SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.

Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. When you support MSU Extension, you help farmers learn profitable and efficient business and production practices. Participants also learn how to optimize and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and how to conserve and protect water resources. This leads to better use of time, money and human capital, and helps retain and create agricultural jobs. These measures strengthen Michigan's economy while connecting farmers to local food opportunities and global markets. In this way you help MSU Extension encourage growth in a sustainable and prosperous Michigan food and agriculture system.

Fruit Production

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center staff and the MSU fruit team hosted the **Great Lakes Fruit Workers conference** in Traverse City. The meeting's location rotates among cities in Michigan, New York and Ontario, allowing host states to highlight their fruit growing regions, and to provide the GLFW with first-hand experiences on regional challenges in fruit production. Comprised of researchers, Extension educators and consultants, the GLFW is tasked with: identifying crop management priorities for fruit producers, fostering collaborations between Great Lakes researchers, Extension educators, and growers, developing innovative crop management techniques, and sharing new integrated pest management technologies, management guides, pest alert systems and outreach efforts that result from these collaborations.

Northwest Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show: The January 2015 show was very well attended with over 320 registrations. Sessions covered a broad range of topics pertinent to tree fruit, grape and saskatoon berry production. The wine grape educational session was very well attended as was the saskatoon session.

Great Lakes Fruit & Vegetable Expo: MSUE educators from northwest Michigan are involved in the planning and facilitation of this annual December event held in Grand Rapids. Many northwest Michigan growers attend to obtain information and make contacts that benefit their farming operations.

Precision Orchard Management Workshop – At this interactive workshop, MSU tree fruit experts demonstrated pruning techniques for high-density sweet cherries at grower farms and the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC) and demonstrated precision orchard management techniques in high-density apples. Precision management includes several management practices, such as pruning, thinning, fertilizing, irrigating and harvest timing, as all of these decisions will affect fruit size and crop value.

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

The 2014 **Tree Fruit IPM (Integrated Pest Management)** kick-off event in April hosted tree fruit growers from NW MI and started off the season's IPM educational seminar series. Weekly Tree Fruit IPM Update meetings provided assistance and services from MSU Extension to tree fruit growers over the course of the 2014 season.

Extension's response to cold injury in area vineyards: Following the severe cold injury to grapevines in the Grand Traverse region due to the 2014 "polar vortex" weather events, numerous reports, articles, radio and television interviews and other form of communication were used to educate growers about vine recovery strategies and keep the public informed about the health of the local wine industry. Unfortunately, we are going through all of this again in 2015 due to winter cold and a severe frost on May 20th. A technical, comparative tasting of wines made from super cold-hardy grape varieties was held in April, to expose the growers and winemakers of our area to alternative wine grape varieties .

Grape Research & Demonstration Projects: Grape variety trials and growing practices research continued in 2014. The severe cold in the winters of 2014 and 2015 caused extensive injury to grape buds; research and demonstration activity related to vine recovery strategies are being investigated and demonstrated at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center. Students in the Viticulture and Enology Science & Teaching Alliance (VESTA) received many hours of hands-on experience in the experimental vineyard.

Weathering the Climate: Cultivation and Technology in Grape Production Conference: This program came out of a new collaborative effort between MSU Extension, MSU's Institute of Applied Technology and Northwestern Michigan College. It featured experts in agricultural technology, geography, horticulture, and unmanned aerial systems. Over 90 participants attended the full-day program that included lectures, grower panel discussions and vineyard demonstrations.

Hops Production

Emerging interest in hop production in the greater Great Lakes Region has increased dramatically since MSUE hosted its first hops educational program in 2008. With support from a thriving craft brewing industry, many growers across the region are beginning to recognize the potential financial benefits of increasing farm diversity and/or expanding their current agricultural operations to include hops.

Hop production has continued to expand across Michigan over the last year. In 2013,



Weathering the Climate Conference attendees explored potential uses for drones in grape production.

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

MSU Extension is working to help hops producers meet the exciting challenges of supplying craft brewers with a high-quality product. This rapidly growing industry, made up of dedicated small business owners, is improving the economy and instilling a sense of local pride in the region.

MSU Extension survey results found that there were over 200 acres of hops statewide. Hop acreage increased in 2014 to approximately 325 acres and 2015 grower surveys suggest there are more than 600 acres. Northwest Michigan is home to much of this growth, as evidenced by the new 200 acre hop operation in Williamsburg, MI (GT County) set for completion in August 2015. In Leelanau County, growers have planted more acreage as well and two new picking and processing facilities were constructed.

In January 2015, Dr. Serrine and Erin Lizotte (MSU Integrated Pest Management Specialist) were invited to attend the Nationwide Hops Pest Management Strategic Plan in Yakima, WA. Serrine was also asked to be a Technical Editor for the updated “Field Guide for Integrated Pest Management in Hops” Publication that will be released in fall 2015. In April 2015, MSU Extension (Serrine-Leelanau, Lizotte -Wexford, and McFarland- UPREC), the Michigan Brewers Guild, and the Hop Growers of Michigan organized the inaugural Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference. The conference was held in Grand Rapids, MI, featured nationally renowned hop, barley, and craft beer experts, and reached capacity at 350+ attendees. Dr. Serrine was also invited to speak on Hop Production in New York and Minnesota.

Dr. Serrine and colleagues received another Project GREEN grant to continue cultivar trials at the Northwest Michigan AgBioResearch Center in Leelanau County. The grant includes funding to set up a “Hops Harvest Demonstration” Facility at the NW Center.

Horticultural Research Efforts

The **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC)** was awarded approximately \$250,000 from granting agencies that supported on-farm tree fruit horticulture and pest management related research. Several of these projects were conducted in collaboration with local tree fruit grower cooperators and the NWMHRC, MSU Extension, and MSU AgBioResearch; research included on-farm monitoring/trapping programs of pest species to facilitate early detection and effective management programs, and pest and disease management trials. Projects also include pollination in tree fruits, apple and cherry diseases, pruning and training, systems management, irrigation, and various other trials.

A summit was held by MSUE at the NWMHRC to solicit industry input on research and outreach needed to successfully manage **Spotted wing Drosophila (SWD)**, an invasive insect pest that poses serious threats to Michigan’s fruit production. SWD populations have increased dramatically in many fruit crops across the state, including cherries, and a sustainable and effective management plan is the top priority of the Michigan Cherry Committee. Six grant proposals were developed based on priorities set by this summit.



A new 28 acre hopyard and picking/processing facility in Leelanau County.

hops.msu.edu

Working together to eliminate invasive species will be essential to lessen the loss of the Michigan tree fruit crops in the future.



NWMHRC:
agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

Home Horticulture

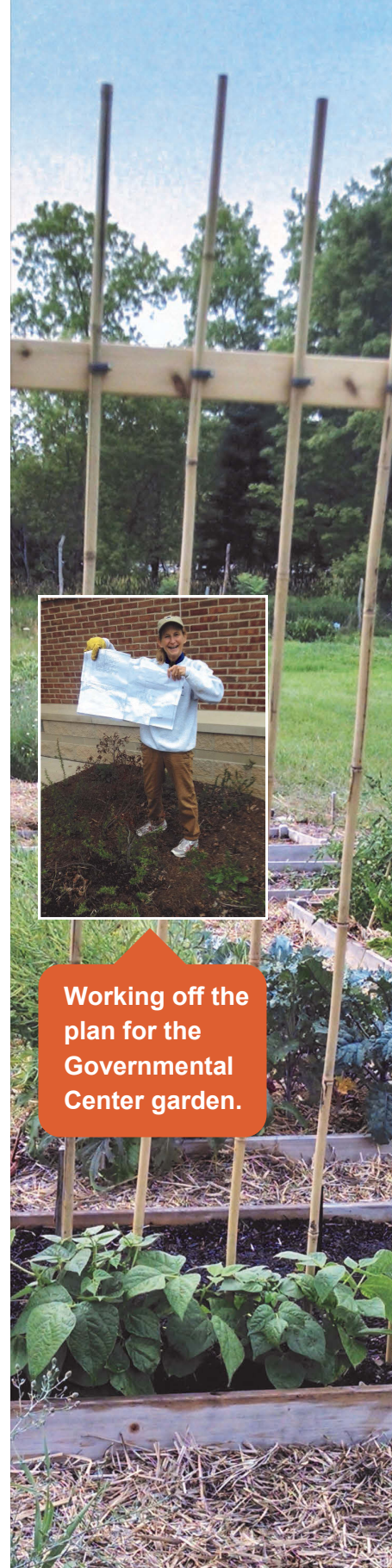
At some point, almost everyone will have a question about their homes related to horticulture: How do I care for the trees in my yard? What's eating my vegetable garden? Why is my lawn turning brown? What plants are best suited to our area to improve water quality and promote pollinator habitat? As of December 2014, Leelanau county expanded to a full-time Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor to be able to offer programs, maintain resources, and answer such questions for its residents in a research-based and environmentally sound manner.

The Master Gardener Program is a certification and volunteer program composed of a 14-week horticultural training course and a 40 hour volunteer commitment dedicated to horticultural outreach education in our local community. Forty-seven Master Gardener trainees participated in the basic training course offered in Leelanau County in 2014. Certification for the program is renewed annually with 15 hours of volunteer services and 5 hours of continued education. In 2014, Extension Master Gardeners and trainees from the local program dedicated 4,800 service hours to the community. Volunteer projects in which Extension Master Gardeners dedicate themselves come in all shapes and sizes and are coordinated by the Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor. Specific examples include a Smart Plant Choices talk presented to the Leelanau Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, and a Worm Composting Initiative in several Leelanau County school science classrooms. Extension Master Gardeners also lend themselves to maintain MSU Extension sponsored horticultural educational projects including the Native Plant Landscape & Rain Garden at the Leelanau County Government Center, the Leelanau Community Garden, and the Leelanau MSU Extension Diagnostics Clinic.

Native Plant Landscape & Rain Garden at the Leelanau County Government Center: Installed in 2009, the plant species in this garden were smartly selected to showcase native plants, their beauty and their benefits to Government Center visitors. These natives thrive in local soil types and weather conditions, minimize irrigation needs, reduce fertilizer needs, reduce runoff and erosion, provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and other wildlife and generally demonstrate sound horticultural practices. This year, Extension Master Gardeners are further developing this educational resource by designing and creating professional exterior plant species signs to educate garden visitors.



Spring clean up in the rain garden.



Working off the plan for the Governmental Center garden.

Leelanau Master Gardener Program

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

The Leelanau Community Garden has been in production since 1992. For over twenty years, this garden has provided a space for small-scale food production education and produced fresh food for the local food pantries to serve Leelanau county residents in need. In the past 5 years, the garden has donated over 4,000 lbs. of fresh produce. At the end of May 2015, with the help of 40 eighth grade students and 10 Master Gardener volunteers, the seeds to the Leelanau Community Garden were sown once again.



A team of students and volunteers working to bring the community garden to life.

MSU Extension Leelanau Plant & Pest Diagnostics Clinic began in 2015 and is offered on the last Wednesday of every month from 10am to 2pm from May through September. The clinic is staffed by the Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor with the assistance of Extension Master Gardener volunteers. Though the Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor offers Diagnostic services on a daily basis to Leelanau county residents, the Clinic allows MSUE Leelanau to reach a larger number of citizens by concentrating inquiries on one day where trained Master Gardener volunteers can assist in researching and responding to resident's plant-related questions.

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Team: The Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor serves on the statewide MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture team and promotes the use of and assists Leelanau residents with the following MSU Extension statewide resources:

- » The MSUE Lawn & Garden Hotline, 1-888-MSUE-4MI
- » The Soil Test Self-Mailer and interpretation website, msusoiltest.com
- » The Gardening in Michigan website, migarden.msu.edu
- » The Smart Gardening Initiative, tip sheets available online and in hardcopy
- » MSUE Consumer Horticulture webinars, workshops, and conferences inquiries.

Agriculture Labor Management

Farm Transition program: Business owners in Leelanau County attended three half-day workshops that took them through the steps to plan transitioning the farm business to a family successor, a non-family successor, or selling and retiring. Presenters included MSUE farm business management specialists and an attorney specializing in business succession. They were available at no charge each afternoon to meet one-on-one with families to answer additional questions.

MSU Extension partners with Farm Bureau, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Migrant Legal Services, Workforce Development Agency, Migrant Resource Councils, other agencies involved in agricultural labor, and grower representatives to

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

coordinate agricultural labor management meetings across the state. Programs were held in Traverse City, Lawrence, West Olive and Hart. The programs are designed to address areas of concern identified by producers.

The **Effective Management of Farm Employees** program was delivered in various places across the state by MSU Extension educators Stan Moore and Phil Durst. Attendees received researched based information on how to improve their labor management skills in four specific areas of labor management: attracting good applicants, building better teamwork, capitalizing on the employees' desire to learn, and achieving high quality performance. 130 growers attended this program as part of a breakout session at the Fruit and Vegetable EXPO in Grand Rapids. Moore and Durst also developed and delivered a DaireXNET Webinar on Effective Management of Farm Employees, and presented a session at the Midwest Women in Ag Conference, hosted by Purdue University in Merrillville Indiana.

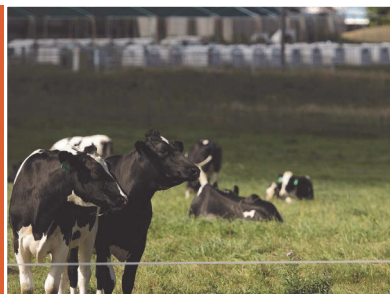
Dairy Production

Michigan State University Extension offered 11 meetings across the state in September 2014 to help dairy producers evaluate the impact of the new **Dairy Margin Protection Program** (part of the new 2014 Farm Bill) on their farm businesses. An additional three meetings were held in November 2014, including one live webcast. Dairy producers learned what the Dairy Margin Protection Program is and how it will work, saw a demonstration of the online Dairy Decision Tool Software, and learned about the potential impacts on farm profitability. Dr. Christopher Wolf, MSU Dairy Economist, along with MSU Extension Dairy Educators and Farm Management Educators, taught these 2-hour workshops. USDA Farm Services Agency personnel were also present at the meetings to help answer questions.

Dairy producers, dairy farm employees, and industry professionals received timely updates about topics important to managing today's dairy farms at the **Focus on Dairy Production** meetings offered across the state by the MSU Extension Dairy Team. Local veterinarians discussed the importance of colostrum management and calf health and their ultimate impact on the profit potential of the milking herd. Participants also gained knowledge about the prevalence of the bovine leukemia virus and how to minimize the disease in their dairy herds, keys to maximizing milk yield when using increased levels of corn silage in dairy cow diets, and animal handling tips for employee training programs. The final topics of the program were best management practices for manure handling during the winter and key components of an emergency response to manure spills. Approximately 60% of the people who completed the post-meeting survey planned to make from 1 to 3 management changes on their farms. They estimated the value of those changes would be over \$365,000.



dairyteam.msu.edu



[Stan Moore's
MSUE News Articles](#)

FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants understand the economic, environmental and social benefits of purchasing local and regional foods.

Cultivating entrepreneurs

With over 1,000 attendees annually, the [Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference](#) has become the preeminent small farm conference in Michigan, providing education and resources for small and mid-scale growers in the post-20th century world of Agriculture.

From Joel Salatin, the Conference's first keynote speaker and self-proclaimed 'environmentalist, capitalist and lunatic farmer'...to Jeff Moyer, Elliot Coleman, Percy Schmeiser, Fred Kirschenmann, and Winona LaDuke, the Conference has featured the country's leading growers, researchers and engaged citizen/eaters that have questioned the long-term sustainability of the industrial food system and are providing promising alternatives. The Conference planning team, which is now comprised of a collaboration of growers, University, and community partners, continues its pursuit of cutting edge practices and practitioners. By focusing on the ecological, economic and social aspects of more community based food-systems, scores of viable, triple-bottom line businesses have been started and thousands more report the changes that they have or will make as a result of something learned at the Conference. Sixty-one Leelanau County residents attended the 2015 Small Farms Conference.

[The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio](#) assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and the bio economy. The innovation counselor has special training to deliver these services to local residents. Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-one basis and may take place at the MSUE office or the client's home or business location. The assistance provided is tailored to meet the needs of the client and may include things like developing a business plan, navigating the regulatory maze, accessing the supply chain or seeking funding options. The innovation counselor also assists clients in accessing specialized services they may need that are offered through Michigan State University like feasibility studies, nutritional labeling and packaging assistance.

One hundred sixty two counseling sessions took place in Leelanau County to assist 13 entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. One new venture was launched and one new job was created. Many of the businesses that were assisted were food processors. These businesses were able to access technical expertise in food product testing, classification, labeling and packaging. The partnership between MSUE and the MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio is providing support for entrepreneurs in supporting economic development across northwest MI.

162 counseling sessions took place to assist 13 entrepreneurs in Leelanau County.

smallfarmconference.org

productcenter.msu.edu

Fostering Strong Communities, continued

Strengthening municipalities

Northern Michigan Counties Association brings county commissioners together to share information and learn about issues important to county government. Recent topics include: cooperative efforts between counties, townships, road commissions, agencies and private owners; tribal sovereignty and cooperative efforts with counties; county committee structures; Medicaid PIHP and regional entities; personal property tax and transportation and the impacts of these issues on county government services. Meetings also include a legislative update from the Michigan Association of Counties.

New County Commissioner Workshops: Since 1968, MSU Extension, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Counties, has conducted the New County Commissioner Workshops following the biennial election of commissioners. The program offers information and learning opportunities on county structure and process, budgeting and finance, county administration, courts, and more.

Effective meetings, parliamentary procedure, techniques for reaching consensus, and behaviors to build trust were discussed by participants in a day-long preconference session at the **2014 Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference** held in Acme. Township officials from 17 counties participated.

Zoning Administrator Certification: A zoning administrator is often the first or only contact a developer or new business has with local government. That makes the zoning administrator important to a community's development and its public image. This series of eight 3-hour classes cover the technical, legal, pragmatic and organizational aspects of zoning administration. Dorothy Petroskey, Village Clerk of Suttons Bay, and Kathy Egan, Suttons Bay Township Planner, participated in this rigorous program and passed, making them Certified Zoning Administrators.

MSU Extension **Government & Public Policy** educators worked with Suttons Bay Township on an applied research project to determine the applicability of using form based code/zoning in rural settings in Michigan. The project involved using a small Charrette to define community vision and define form elements to be used as material to supplement the existing Master Plan; conducting a synoptic survey to further define community form; and then preparing drafts of a form based zoning for each zoning district and drafts of the administrative sections of zoning. The finding for this project was that advantages of form based code in rural Michigan were nil, or nonexistent as compared to conventional zoning. Form based zoning in a village, city, and other urban locations continue to provide considerable advantages for the property owner with more flexibility, choices, faster review and approvals, and less red tape. Form based zoning in built urban areas also have many advantages for local government.



Fostering Strong Communities, continued

Engaging communities through facilitative leadership

MSU Extension educators worked with the University of Michigan to facilitate local community discussions as part of a study, “**Deliberative Engagement of Communities in Decisions about Research Spending.**” The discussions they facilitated took place throughout Northern Michigan, where the CHAT program was delivered. **CHAT (Choosing Health All Together)** is a serious game designed to be inclusive, informative and engaging. The goal is to promote deliberation and dialog about complex and value-laden health research spending decisions. CHAT was designed so community members could provide input for funding decisions, usually related to health, health care or health research. CHAT depicts spending options as layered wedges on a pie chart. Higher levels of health care research cost more. Participants have 50 markers to spend on various options; there are not enough markers to fund all research levels. Thus, participants must set priorities for the use of limited resources. Participants do this individually, selecting options for themselves and their family as well as in a group, where they make choices for their community.

Honoring our Children Initiative - MSU Extension continued efforts this year in **engaging Tribal Leaders and Tribal Citizens** in creating a plan to improve factors important to the well-being of Tribal Children, ages 0-8. This includes quality education, safe communities, and good health. This initiative is in partnership with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and is financially supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. MSU Extension workshop sessions offer participants an opportunity to practice new skills in leading a group discussion, reaching consensus, encouraging creativity, setting outcome-based goals for meetings, keeping a group focused and creating action plans.

A **Comprehensive Grass Roots Approach to Community Development** six-day training was offered to Michigan residents and Tribal Nations to teach participants skills to launch and sustain projects, ensure effective grass roots participation, map assets and relationships of a whole community, empower and motivate community partners and groups to action, develop creative strategies and do-able projects, balance implementation with celebration and organize participatory evaluation.

Other Michigan Tribal Governance efforts included:

- » Training Michigan’s Healthcare Professionals at Tribal Health Clinics
- » 4-H Tribal Youth Leadership
- » Building Strong Sovereign Nations (BSSN: Anishinaabek Leadership for Seven Generations)
- » Good Governance Trainings

MSU Extension’s tribal governance programs seek to establish sustainable partnerships with tribal nations, tribal organizations, and county governments across Michigan.

[Bethany Prykucki’s MSUE News Articles](#)

[Emily Proctor’s MSUE News Articles](#)

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ASSETS

When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about income-generating opportunities, ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs can lead to increased income for families that retain their natural resource assets, help landowners become better stewards of their land, and protect land management opportunities for future generations. Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

Wildfire Prevention

Elaine Bush, Extension educator, and Jed Jaworski, Firewise field assistant, provided wildfire prevention education in Leelanau County as well as several neighboring counties. Programming during 2014 included:

Firewise on the Farm (FOTF) exhibits and handouts were presented at agricultural safety workshops held in Cadillac, Ludington, Manistee, the Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center, and at the annual statewide Farm Bureau meeting in Grand Rapids. FOTF educational displays, handouts, and presentations were also provided for growers at the northern Michigan Small Farm Conference, a North Central Michigan College community education session, and at the Northern Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show.

Firewise zoning workshops were offered during 2014. Twenty local officials received three Master Citizen Planner credits for attending a 3-hour session co-taught by Elaine Bush and Extension colleague Kurt Schindler. One hour sessions were conducted by Bush and Extension colleague Brad Neumann at the Michigan Township Association (MTA) annual conference at the Grand Traverse Resort and the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) annual conference in Grand Rapids. Jaworski provided wildfire response training to 125 Community Emergency Response team (CERT) members from all over Michigan meeting in Grayling.

Jaworski and MDNR wildfire specialist Dan Laux provided an exhibit and educational handouts at the Northern Michigan Fire Chief Association conference in Petoskey and Michigan Emergency Management Association conference in Traverse City. The newest MSU Extension Firewise bulletin, E3203 *Protect Your Great Lakes Shoreline Home from Wildfires* was distributed to property owners in 2014.



Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets, continued

Enhancing & protecting our Great Lakes coastal resources

Through research, education and outreach, **Michigan Sea Grant** is dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes and coastal resources. Sea Grant staff engage partners on projects designed to foster science-based decisions that promote vibrant, livable communities that offer opportunities for economic growth while preserving our natural resources.



Michigan Sea Grant co-hosted the **7th annual Freshwater Summit** at the NMC Great Lakes Hagerty Center. District Sea Grant Educator Mark Breederland gave lake levels rebound talk to sold-out crowd of 175. Other topics covered included a sea lamprey update, Boardman River dams update and keynote from the DEQ office of the Great Lakes.

Rebounding water levels in Grand Traverse Bay from late 2012 to 2014.

Educator Mark Breederland presented to the **Michigan Fish Producers Association** on lake levels, fisheries updates etc., and to the US Army Corps of Engineers on the Asian Carp/ Great Lakes Interbasin Study in January 2014.

Other projects this year included working with Elmwood Township on the waterfront corridor, talking with Leelanau County marinas on participation in the Clean Marina program, and participation with the **Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network** on water safety equipment and best practices for swimming safety in Great Lakes beaches.

Michigan Sea Grant also recently launched the **Be Current Smart** regional campaign with the goal of creating awareness of potentially deadly Great Lakes currents. Supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the campaign includes a central website with animated messages and tips for parents, social media components, and video interviews with U.S. Coast Guard, county sheriffs and park officials to communicate key threats to swimmers, including high waves, dangerous structures (e.g., piers), dangerous currents, and promoting the use of water safety and emergency rescue equipment.



MSUE's Sea Grant Educator Mark Breederland and Injury Prevention Coordinator Jennifer Ritter both serve as members of the Northwest MI Water Safety Network.

Michigan Sea Grant:
miseagrant.umich.edu

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

Preventable injuries are the #1 killer of children in the United States and in Michigan. Between the years 2000-2013, Michigan lost 8,105 persons between birth and age 24 to unintentional injuries. **Safe Kids North Shore** is in the middle of its 15th year of providing injury prevention focused education and programming to the residents of our five county region. In addition, we are beginning 9th year of programming through a continued partnership between MSU Extension and Munson Trauma Services. Safe Kids North Shore uses research based programs and reports developed by Safe Kids Worldwide to deliver their educational initiatives. Our programs are free to schools and agencies upon their request.

Our programming is carried out through several partnerships that encompass many different areas and ages of injury prevention. We lead the **Grand Traverse Region Injury Prevention Network**, which brings area agencies and their experts together to address injury prevention programming across the lifespan. In addition, through our partnership with Munson Healthcare, we oversee the Kohl's 4 Season Safety program, providing head and sports injury prevention programming with funds made available to the hospital through Kohl's Cares.

Following are some highlights of 2014 programming:

- » Direct contact injury prevention programming to over 900 individuals.
- » Indirect contact was made to over 1,600 individuals through flyers and brochures distributed at events, agencies and businesses
- » We have already surpassed these numbers for 2015!

Child Passenger Safety: Safe Kids North Shore continues to oversee and provide required certification education and skills assessments to over 40 Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) from both the Grand Traverse region and Northwest Michigan.

Leelanau County currently has one CPST at the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office. This CPST offers free car seat checks by appointment to community members. In addition, through collaboration and commitment from the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office, Safe Kids North Shore has been able to establish and maintain a car seat referral program to income qualifying residents of Leelanau County. Seats for this program are obtained through a grant from the Office of Highway and Safety Planning. Participants receive a seat and a half-hour of education, to include proper installation for their specific vehicle model. The Grand Traverse Band Head Start had a similar program in place in the past,

Safe Kids North Shore is one of over 400 unintentional injury prevention coalitions under Safe Kids Worldwide. Since Safe Kids was founded in 1988, there has been a 60% reduction in unintentional injuries to children age 19 and younger nationwide.



Safe Kids North Shore:
qtinjuryprevention.com



Deputy Jennifer Hull has been presented with 2 awards since her involvement with Safe Kids North Shore for her commitment and hard work in the field of Child Passenger Safety.

Protecting People from Injuries, continued

however, due to staffing changes, they do not currently have a staff member that is a Certified CPST. We are currently working with them to get at least one of their staff members trained and certified through a class that we are holding in September. Due to the fact that there is only one Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician currently in Leelanau, many residents attend one of our two monthly Car Seat Inspection Stations in Traverse City.

Diminish Distracted Driving & Driver Behavior is a program that has been offered each year since 2010 to all high schools in Leelanau. Three schools participate in the program. The program is grateful for partnerships with the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police for providing law enforcement presence and assistance in delivery with this multi-station program. The program heightens awareness regarding driver behaviors and the outcomes of those behaviors. Following an informative presentation, participants experience first-hand the dangers of distracted driving while using a driving simulator, the effects of driving while impaired by wearing "fatal-vision" goggles then engaging in mock field sobriety tests and finally participate in a segment of "Ask Law Enforcement" where they can have myths dispelled by our law enforcement partners.

Our driving simulator segues us into some great safety related conversations with participants. Here we are having some fun at the Leelanau Law Day and high school.



Safe Kids North Shore was part of the planning process for this (2015) year's successful Leelanau Law Day. Our Coalition was responsible for bringing speakers in from both Ohio and California from the nationally recognized, research based, IMPACT for Teen Drivers program. Two sessions were held: one for parents and another for high school students.

Safe Kids North Shore was one of the primary partners involved in the creation of the **Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network**: a group of community partners that have begun efforts to collectively focus on water safety issues in this region. Some of the areas of focus include: water quality, navigating dangerous currents, beach signage to include area dangers, rescue equipment, water safety lessons and presentations, community beach hazard awareness and more.

Through grant funds from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% allocation (secured for the NMWS Network by the Grand Traverse County Health Department), water rescue stations have been installed at 39 locations throughout Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse Counties. These water rescue stations include safety signage and throw rings. The sites were chosen by the Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network, as locations that were in the most immediate need.



[Play it Safe in the Water Facebook Page](#)

Protecting People from Injuries, continued

The rescue station sites in Leelanau county include: Leelanau State Park Beach (Lake Michigan), Elmwood Twp. Park (West Grand Traverse Bay), Northport Beach /4th Street (West Grand Traverse Bay), Northport Bay Marina (West Grand Traverse Bay), Omena Beach (West Grand Traverse Bay), Suttons Bay Park (West Grand Traverse Bay), Suttons Bay Marina (West Grand Traverse Bay), Empire Municipal Beach (Lake Michigan), Lake Street Beach/Glen Arbor (Lake Michigan), Peterson Park (Lake Michigan/Christmas Cove), Peshawbestown Beach (West Grand Traverse Bay) and Reynolds Street Beach (Lake Michigan).

CHILL OUT for Winter Safety, recipient of the Michigan Hometown Health Hero Award, is a program for elementary students that highlights winter dangers such as hypothermia, frostbite, ice navigation and head injuries. It teaches how to continue to do all the things we love to do in winter in Northern Michigan but in a safe manner.

This year, residents from the Munson Family Practice assisted with the delivery of the program. Students were very receptive to being able to interact with doctors outside of a medical setting. Glen Lake Elementary school hosted this program again in 2014, as it has for multiple years since its inception in 2008.



Helmet Use and Sports Injury Prevention was provided through the Kohl's 4 Season Safety program. The program partners with local sports medicine physicians and orthopedic surgeons in delivering sport specific injury information to local youth sports teams, coaches and parents. A handful of sports injury prevention and concussion awareness programs were held in Leelanau County at either sporting events or at parent team meetings.



Other risk areas that are addressed by Safe Kids North Shore and Kohl's 4 Season Safety include: home safety, medication and poisoning prevention, In and Around Cars, CarFit for Mature Drivers and Driver Behavior for parents of teens and for companies for their employees.

Unfortunately, unintentional injuries continue to be the number one killer of children ages 1-14 and motor vehicle crashes the number one killer of persons ages 1-34. Through community partnerships, advocacy of best practices, public awareness, distribution of safety equipment and education, and training on the proper use of safety devices, we are making a difference in and around Leelanau County.



One of 12 new water rescue stations that are located in Leelanau County.

Some of our new Residents that assisted with Chill Out for Winter Safety at Glen Lake.

A student athlete shows a news anchor how to put on a football helmet, following their segment about concussions and the importance of proper gear and being honest with coaches and parents when experiencing symptoms.

MSU Extension Staff Serving Leelanau County:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
John Amrhein	Government & Public Policy	231-922-4627	amrhein@msu.edu
Denise Aungst	Health and Nutrition	231-533-8818	aungstd@msu.edu
Mark Breederland	Coastal Communities Development	231-922-4628	breederl@msu.edu
Elaine Bush	Firewise/Tourism	231-889-4277	bushe@msu.edu
Ann Chastain	Leadership and Community Engagement	231-439-8972	chastain@msu.edu
Julie Crick	Forestry & Natural Resources	989-275-7179	crickjul@msu.edu
Christina Curell	Environmental/Water Quality	231-745-2732	curellc@msu.edu
James DeDecker	Specialty Field Crops	989-734-2168	dedecke5@msu.edu
Thomas Dudek	Greenhouse/Nursery	616-994-4542	dudek@msu.edu
Phillip Durst	Beef	989-345-0692	durstp@msu.edu
Sarah Eichberger	Disease Prevention and Management	231-922-4836	eichber2@msu.edu
Erwin Elsner	Small Fruit	231-922-4822	elsner@msu.edu
Elizabeth Ferry	Swine	269-445-4438	franzeli@msu.edu
Merrill Gould	Livestock/Bioenergy	616-994-4547	gouldm@msu.edu
Tom Guthrie	Pork/Equine	517-788-4292	guthri19@msu.edu
Andy Hayes	Community Prosperity	231-582-6482	andy@northernlakes.net
Philip Kaatz	Forage/Commercial Agriculture	810-667-0341	kaatz@msu.edu
Gerald Lindquist	Grazing Management	231-832-6139	lindquis@msu.edu
Erin Lizotte	Integrated Pest Management	231-944-6504	taylo548@msu.edu
Gerald May	Environmental/Air Quality	989-875-5233	mayg@msu.edu
Michael Metzger	Goats & Sheep	517-788-4292	metzgerm@msu.edu
Dee Miller	Children & Youth Institute Supervision	231-258-3320	mille454@msu.edu
Stan Moore	Dairy/Agricultural Human Resources	231-533-8818	moorest@msu.edu
Jill O'Donnell	Christmas Tees/Ornamental/Landscapes	231-779-9480	odonne10@msu.edu
Dennis Pennington	Biomass	269-838-8265	pennin34@msu.edu
Emily Pochubay	Fruit Production	231-946-1510	pochubay@msu.edu
Emily Proctor	Tribal Governance	231-439-8927	proctor8@msu.edu
Bethany Prykucki	Leadership and Community Engagement	231-258-3320	prykucki@msu.edu
Nikki Rothwell	Commercial Fruit	231-946-1510	rothwel3@msu.edu
Kurt Schindler	Government & Public Policy/Land Use	231-882-0026	schindl9@msu.edu
Jeannine Schwehofer	Meat Quality	810-989-6935	grobbej@msu.edu
Dean Solomon	Natural Resources	231-582-6232	solomon@msu.edu
Michael Staton	Soybeans	269-673-0370	staton@msu.edu
Curtis Talley, Jr.	Farm Business Management	231-873-2129	talleycu@msu.edu
Marilyn Thelen	Agriculture Systems	989-227-6454	thelen22@msu.edu
Christine Venema	Family Financial Literacy	810-667-0341	venema@msu.edu
Wendy Wieland	Product Center Innovation Counseling	231-348-1770	wieland@5@msu.edu
Mary Wilson	Master Gardener	248-347-0269	wilsonm1@msu.edu

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